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"The numbers of births and of marriages are the highest ever recorded, while the number of deaths is the lowest since 1862, when the population was only about 20,000,000. Natural increase also was the greatest on record.

"The marriage rate in England and Wales during the year 1920 was 20.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population in the middle of the year, the birth rate 25.4 per 1,000, and the death rate 12.4 per 1,000. Infant mortality was 80 per 1,000 registered births. The marriage rate was higher and the total death rate and infant mortality lower than in any other year on record. The birth rate was the highest since 1909."

Vital statistics, England and Wales, 1920.

	Number.	Per 1,000 population.		Number.	Per 1,000 population.
Population (in thousands).....	37,610	-----	Deaths from—		
Marriages.....	379,658	-----	Measles.....	7,057	0.19
Births.....	957,994	25.4	Scarlet fever.....	1,417	.04
Deaths:			Whooping cough.....	4,259	.11
Total.....	466,213	12.4	Diphtheria.....	5,523	.15
Infants under one year of age	76,736	(¹)	Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years).....	7,975	-----
Persons aged 65 years and upward.....	156,821	-----	Influenza.....	10,508	.28
Deaths from—			Violence.....	17,915	.48
Typhoid fever.....	520	.01	Inquest cases.....	30,995	-----
Smallpox.....	29	.00			

¹ 80.2 per 1,000 births.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH COMPARED.

DEATH RATES FOR PRINCIPAL CAUSES, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1921, SEPTEMBER AND YEAR, 1920, AND COMPARISON BY COLOR FOR FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1919, 1920, AND 1921, IN A GROUP OF INSURED PERSONS.

The accompanying tables are taken from the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for October, 1921. They present the mortality data of the industrial department of the company for August and September, 1921, September and year, 1920, and compare the death rates by color for the first nine months of the years 1919, 1920, and 1921.

The figures are based on a strength of approximately 13,000,000 insured persons.

The gross death rate for this group for September, 1921, is lower than that for August, but slightly higher than that for September, 1920. The specific rates for certain diseases, however, show a decided increase over those for August. The rate for typhoid fever was 32 per cent higher in September than in August, and 19 per cent higher than in September, 1920. The diphtheria rate was also higher than in August, 1921, and September, 1920, although lower than that for the year 1920. It was stated that between August 22 and October 8, 1921, 70 deaths from acute poliomyelitis occurred in this group, as against 26 during the corresponding period of 1920.

Death rates (annual basis) per 100,000 lives exposed, for principal causes, August and September, 1921, and September and year, 1920.

[Industrial department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Cause of death.	Death rate per 100,000 lives exposed.			
	September, 1921.	August, 1921.	September, 1920.	Year 1920.
Total, all causes	791.6	809.0	782.7	989.4
Typhoid fever	13.6	10.3	11.4	6.7
Measles5	1.1	1.4	8.5
Scarlet fever	3.3	3.7	2.0	6.0
Whooping cough	3.6	4.3	5.0	6.6
Diphtheria	17.7	14.3	12.5	22.1
Influenza	2.9	2.5	4.4	53.5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	109.5	113.5	116.1	137.9
Cancer	72.2	72.3	69.3	69.8
Meningitis (all forms)	4.7	6.2	5.6	5.2
Cerebral hemorrhage	52.2	48.0	49.7	61.3
Organic diseases of the heart	98.3	100.9	93.9	117.0
Pneumonia (all forms)	32.7	26.8	27.3	108.1
Other respiratory diseases	11.5	9.9	11.8	18.2
Diarrhea and enteritis	24.2	31.3	29.0	15.8
Bright's disease	63.6	60.7	66.2	70.8
Puerperal state	15.9	16.3	16.6	23.0
Suicides	7.9	8.0	5.5	6.1
Homicides	5.8	6.3	8.8	5.8
Other external causes (excluding suicides and homicides)	60.5	70.2	61.4	60.1
Traumatism by automobile	14.1	13.8	14.0	11.1
All other causes	200.2	202.5	184.9	188.9

Death rates (annual basis) per 100,000 persons exposed, for principal causes, compared by color, for first 9 months of 1919, 1920, and 1921.

[Industrial department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Cause of death.	Death rate per 100,000 persons exposed from January to September.					
	White.			Colored.		
	1921	1920	1919	1921	1920	1919
	1921	1920	1919	1921	1920	1919
Total, all causes	799.9	981.3	1,051.8	1,322.1	1,577.0	1,656.9
Typhoid fever	5.3	5.4	5.9	12.1	11.1	13.3
Measles	4.1	11.2	4.0	1.9	4.6	2.4
Scarlet fever	8.1	6.4	4.1	2.6	.7	.3
Whooping cough	4.2	7.1	3.3	7.5	8.8	3.0
Diphtheria and croup	22.7	21.3	18.8	5.4	5.3	5.8
Influenza	7.9	65.0	120.3	18.3	104.4	152.6
Tuberculosis, all forms	99.3	124.9	138.0	272.3	305.0	329.4
Tuberculosis of lungs	88.7	112.1	124.4	248.2	279.0	298.8
Tuberculous meningitis	5.0	6.5	7.0	6.4	6.5	10.3
Other forms of tuberculosis	5.5	6.3	6.6	17.7	19.4	20.4
Meningitis (total)	5.2	6.3	7.4	5.0	7.5	5.2
Cerebrospinal meningitis	3.0	5.3	5.9	3.2	6.4	4.7
Cerebral hemorrhage; apoplexy	55.7	58.2	54.9	86.4	88.3	87.4
Organic diseases of heart	103.9	115.1	107.7	168.0	179.7	180.8
Total respiratory diseases	77.3	135.4	146.2	126.1	222.0	235.1
Bronchitis	5.2	8.9	8.5	10.4	12.5	11.7
Bronchopneumonia	23.5	39.7	39.4	31.3	47.4	49.1
Pneumonia, lobar and undefined	40.8	76.2	89.7	72.7	147.4	159.5
Other diseases of respiratory system	7.9	10.6	8.6	11.6	14.6	14.8
Diarrhea and enteritis	15.6	15.9	16.6	14.9	15.1	19.6
Under 2 years	6.4	7.3	7.8	3.8	4.9	6.5
2 years and over	9.1	8.6	8.8	11.1	10.2	13.1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	66.4	74.1	73.9	123.5	132.1	136.3
Total puerperal state	19.1	23.7	19.8	27.1	31.2	25.1
Puerperal septicemia	8.5	8.1	5.9	11.6	13.1	11.5
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions	4.4	4.9	4.5	7.6	7.1	5.0
Other diseases of puerperal state	6.2	10.6	9.4	7.8	11.0	8.7
Total external causes ¹	68.1	69.4	97.5	97.4	93.4	116.4
Suicides	7.8	6.3	7.5	5.3	3.8	5.0
Homicides	3.4	3.3	3.7	27.2	23.4	32.1
Accidental and unspecified violence ²	56.7	59.3	63.2	64.9	65.9	69.2
Accidental drowning	9.6	7.4	(³)	11.1	10.0	(³)
Automobile accidents	11.6	10.6	(³)	8.3	6.0	(³)
War deaths	1	.6	23.1	1	.4	10.2
All other and ill-defined causes of death	233.9	242.0	233.4	353.7	367.7	344.3

¹ Includes "war deaths."

² Excludes "war deaths."

³ Data unavailable.